HOMEPAGE

MEDIA

'60 Minutes' Staff Threaten to Quit Over Pro-Trump Censorship

FIRESTORM

Controversy has engulfed CBS amid mounting accusations of politicized management under the network's new MAGA-curious chief.

Will Neal
Reporter

Updated Dec. 22 2025 8:49AM EST
Published Dec. 22 2025 6:57AM EST

128 Comments

FIFA via Getty Images

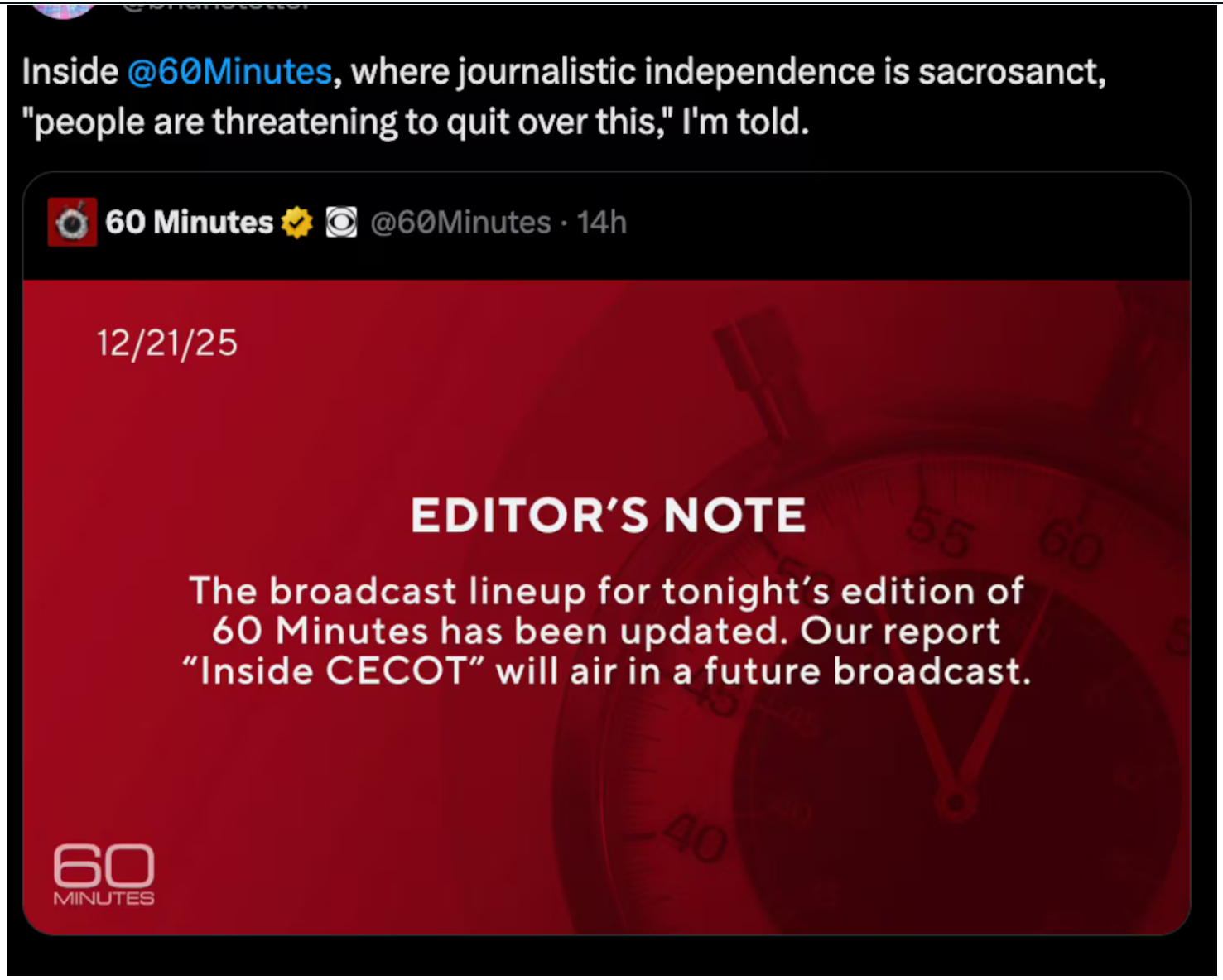
Sign Up for The Swamp Newsletter

Must-know stories (and glorious gossip) from the D.C. mire.

Staff at *60 Minutes* are threatening to quit after the network's MAGA-curious chief allegedly shelved a chilling segment on the Trump administration's nationwide deportation drive.

"Inside [*60 Minutes*], where journalistic independence is sacrosanct, 'people are threatening to quit over this," I'm told," CNN's chief media analyst Brian Stelter posted late Sunday night of the mounting firestorm.

CBS had announced earlier in the afternoon it would pull a *60 Minutes* segment otherwise billed as an inside look at "brutal and torturous conditions" at CECOT, the feared El Salvadoran megaprison to which the MAGA administration has deported hundreds of migrants this year.


Inside @60Minutes, where journalistic independence is sacrosanct, "people are threatening to quit over this," I'm told.
60 Minutes @60Minutes · 14h
12/21/25
EDITOR'S NOTE
The broadcast lineup for tonight's edition of 60 Minutes has been updated. Our report "Inside CECOT" will air in a future broadcast.
60 MINUTES

X/Brian Stelter

would benefit from an interview with White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller.

Miller is one of the chief architects of the Trump administration's immigration raids, so it is partly at his direction that migrants were sent to the center in the first place.

He has repeatedly drawn fire for framing immigration as an "invasion" of criminal elements from abroad, and allegedly pushing deportation quotas that, in turn, have resulted in frequent violations of the Constitutionally mandated right to due process.

Weiss is the founder of the conservative-leaning *The Free Press*, and her appointment as editor-in-chief at CBS followed this year's controversial merger between the network's erstwhile parent company, Paramount, and media conglomerate Skydance.

Weiss apparently wanted Miller's input to feature in the broadcast.

Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

The resulting entity, Paramount Skydance, is owned by the Ellison family, who are keen supporters of the Trump administration.

CBS has undertaken considerable layoffs and restructuring in the months since. Critics have

company, per conditions under which the Trump administration's Federal Communications Commission approved the merger.

Widespread concern over the future editorial direction of CBS appeared to have been borne out earlier in November after the network was accused of buckling to pressure from Trump over what material to broadcast from a *60 Minutes* sit-down with the president.

Compared against the extended 73-minute cut released online, the final 28-minute TV edit of that interview was found to have excluded the president losing his cool over questions about his

HOMEPAGE

'60 Minutes' Suddenly Drops Segment on Major Controversy

BE RIGHT BACK

Julia Ornedo

Also cut from the broadcast version were the president's boasts about securing a multi-million dollar payout from Paramount over his claims the network had deceptively edited a separate interview with Kamala Harris to give the then-Democratic candidate a boost in last year's polls.

Responding to the mounting firestorm over the pulled CECOT segment Sunday, Weiss told The New York Times that "holding stories that aren't ready for whatever reason—that they lack sufficient context, say, or that they are missing critical voices—happens every day in every newsroom."

'60 Mins' Host's Email Denouncing Pro-Trump Censoring Leaks

PLOT THICKENS

Cameron Adams

"I look forward to airing this important piece when it's ready," she added.

But in a leaked memo to the *60 Minutes* team, veteran reporter Sharyn Alfonsi blasted Weiss for allegedly making the decision out of deference to the MAGA administration, rather than a code of journalistic ethics.

CBS Boss Censored '60 Minutes' for Not Interviewing Miller

SERIAL MILLER

Cameron Adams

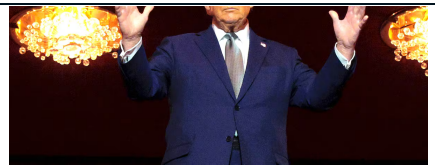
"Our story was screened five times and cleared by both CBS attorneys and Standards and Practices," she wrote. "It is factually correct. In my view, pulling it now—after every rigorous internal check has been met is not an editorial decision, it is a political one."

Alfonsi added that due requests for comment on the piece had been sent to the Department of Homeland Security, the White House and the State Department. These allegedly went unanswered, with the lack of response received as "a tactical maneuver designed to kill the story."

to Rant in Primetime

SHOWBUSINESS, BABY

Leigh Kimmins



"If the administration's refusal to participate becomes a valid reason to spike a story, we have effectively handed them a 'kill switch' for any reporting they find inconvenient," she wrote. "I care too much about this broadcast to watch it be dismantled without a fight."

The Daily Beast has reached out to Paramount, CBS, and Weiss's representatives for comment on this story.

Will Neal
Reporter
willneal93 will.neal@thedailybeast.com

Got a tip? Send it to The Daily Beast here.

Conversation 128 Comments

We want to know what you think, but keep it respectful. Read our commenting guidelines here.

Log in

What do you think?

Sort by Best

T **tamaranchorider**
2 days ago

60 minutes staff should quit, Stephen Colbert has also been shown the door. For their sake and integrity it's time to move on. Personally, I've stopped watching CBS as a channel and will only watch clips of Colbert's show. Where ever they go will be better and will support 100%.

Reply · 114 4 · Share

T **timmy1477**
2 days ago

We all talk about potentially losing our democracy I think it's already gone and we are just now experiencing what it's like to live in an Autocracy. We the people no longer matters. Our voices our ability to make informed decisions is now controlled by the rich and powerful!!

Reply · 38 2 · Share

G **geoffkonstan**
1 day ago

I's not just "the rich and powerful" that are controlling the news media. If that was it, this

Reply · 9 2 · Share

1 reply

Show 1 more reply

V **vmgla**
2 days ago

Just more of the continuing saga of destroying what is left of a free press and the 1st amendment. Every single day, more dictatorship, less freedom. The complicit congress and Supreme Court are the reason we are here.

Reply · 282 7 · Share

P **PBear417**
2 days ago

Totally agree! The first time he broke the law in office, that should have been it! SC and Congress aided and abetted. Spineless cowards, all.

Reply · 186 5 · Share

1 reply

H **h.being**
2 days ago

CBS is going to lose any viewer who's not dying of old age and those viewers aren't going to be replaced with Trump friendly ones. This is not just journalistic but business malpractice.
(Edited)

Reply · 59 2 · Share

So networks always pull major stories just a few hours before broadcast? You'd almost think Bari Weiss has no experience in broadcasting….

Reply · 127 5 · Share

Show More Comments

Powered by OpenWeb

Terms | Privacy | Feedback

Trending Now

POLITICS

Artist Who Canceled Show at Trump's Kennedy Center Speaks Out

Laura Esposito

POLITICS

Trump, 79, Declares Absurd National Security Threat in Late-Night Meltdown

Ewan Palmer

HOMEPAGE

Trump, 79, Delivers Deranged Threat to TV Networks in Yuletide Meltdown

Cameron Adams

POLITICS

Epstein Files Dump Reveals Tip on Trump 'Prostitute Party'

Farrah Tomazin

MEDIA

CBS Frantically Tries to Stop People From Seeing Censored '60 Minutes'

William Vaillancourt

BACK TO TOP ↑

HOMEPAGE